proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a member of the Coffee Board.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

RE. NEED FOR A UNIFORM CIVIL AVIATION POLICY

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am happy that a couple of important Cabinet Ministers are present here on behalf of the Government. You may kindly recall that this House cutting across political differences, transcending political differences expressed its uniform feeling that the Government of India should come forward with a uniform civil aviation policy, a comprehensive civil aviation policy because we have been hearing disturbing reports that various proposals by foreign airlines to have tie-up with the domestic private airline which are to be made are being processed by the Cabinet. Madam, we had raised that issue in the context of the proposal of the Tata-Singapore Airlines operation in the domestic sector. What we are objecting to was that the Government should not allow such a tie-up in domestic sector. The Government should have a comprehensive civil aviation policy. We have already said that we are opposed to foreign airlines and domestic private airlines coming together to operate in the domestic sector. We were very firm on that point. We understand that certain private airlines are already having foreign equity participation and they are operating in the domestic sector. We are opposed to that also. Therefore, this is a very serious matter. In spite of a uniform voice expressed by this House, we understand that the Union Cabinet is processing this particular proposal. We also understand that the Union Cabinet is going to take a decision on this proposal very soon. We want to raise our voice again together and demand that the Government should come forward with a comprehensive civil aviation policy. So far as international sectors are concerned, there can be a tie-up with foreign airlines. But in the domestic sector, if foreign airlines are going to be allowed to have a tie-up with domestic private airlines, it would ruin the Indian Airlines. We are very much concerned about this. If the Union Cabinet is not going to come out with a comprehensive policy, a uniform policy we may have to get exercised over and we may have to be very firm on this particular issue. We also want some Cabinet Minister to respond on this issue.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam Deputy Chairman, last time the hon. Minister was kind enough to announce that he is going to declare a policy during this session itself. Now, we have to distinguish between a foreign airline and a foreign investment. We are not against foreign investment in the domestic sector. We want foreign investment in the domestic sector. But we are objecting to a foreign airline in the domestic sector. This is the difference. The Government has to decide on that line.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairma, during the period of the previous Congress Government when a report appeared in the newspapers about the Tata-Singapore Airline tie-up, I wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister and the then Civil Aviation Minister opposing it. I think we all objected to it. Again it has come up. The main point is this foreign airline is going to be linked with international air traffic, not merely with domestic air traffic. So, Air India is also going to be severely affected. This foreign airline can attract domestic passengers from India to abroad also through this link up. Therefore, it is going to affect both the Indian Airlines as well as Air India. Air India is always running at a loss. If we allow the foreign airline apart from the quota system, then, it is going to be a disastrous thing. I fully endorse what my colleague, Mr. Baby

has said that the Government must come out with a concrete statement which should not speak about the tie-up with foreign airline, but it must be to protect the interest of the domestic airlines. I fully support that.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I only say if the Government has any intention of closing down Indian Airlines, let them do it openly. Why are they taking recourse to a back-door policy? All the economic fundamentals now connected with the operation of aviation industry in India, particularly in the domestic sector don't call for an additional play, don't call for additional flights. Even now there is enough additional accommodation in the flights of Indian Airlines. Therefore, we do not need additional flights for carrying air traffic.

Secondly, our petroleum production has gone down. We are importing petrol from outside. We are subsidising every ounce of petrol which means we are only robbing Indian tax-payers to give petrol at a reduced price to the Tata-Singapore Airlines. Therefore, this is an uneconomic decision. It is a policital decision. if it is a political decision, the Government must come here and explain to us. We are unanimous, the House is totally unanimous against this tie-up. The Goverment should not take a decsion on this in today's Cabinet meeting. It must come to the Parliament and make a statement.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल): मैड्म सिविल एविएशन मिनिष्टर ने मेरे ही सप्लीमेंटरी क्वेश्चन के जवाब में एश्योर किया था हाउस में, उनके बाद इस सेशन के पहले हफ्ते में उन्होंने कहा कि हम ऐसा नहीं होने देंगे। लेकिन यहां सदन में मंत्री जी बता रहे हैं कि हम इसी सेशन में आते हैं और कम्प्रेहेंसिव पौलिसी बना रहे हैं।

†ڈاکٹری محمد سلیم: میڈم۔ سول ایوی ایشن منسٹر نے میرے ہی سپلیمنٹری کوئشچن کے جواب میں ایشیور کیا تھا ھاؤس میں۔ اس کے بعد اس سیشن کے پہلے ہفتے میں انھوں نے کہا کہ ہم ایسا نہیں ہونے دینگے لیکن یہاں سدن میں منتری جی بتا رہے ہیں کہ ہم اسی سیشن میں آتے ہیں اور کمپریہینسو پالیسی بنا رہے ہیں۔

उपसभापति: मंत्री जी कुछ कह रहे हैं।

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): Hon. Madam, the Government of the United Front is committed to the protection and safeguarding of the interests of the nation. I will certainly convey the feelings of all the Members to my colleague, the Minister for Civil Aviation.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): What about the Bill for women?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What commitment is there.

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया): अभी नेशन की बात हो रही है। *(Interruptions)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Women are part of the nation, Mr. Minister. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Are women not part of the nation? *(Interruptions)*. Madam, the Minister is not responding on the Women's Bill. Please ask hime to tell us. Ask him to give us a date for the Women's Bill.

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

Does this Government feel that women are not part of the nation? Please tell us when the women's Bill is going to be passed in this Session. Today is Monday and by Friday, the Session will get over; this part of the Session, I mean. Are they going to pass the Bill or not? Please ask them to tell us. Madam, only you can protect us. They will never get up. Madam, please ask them to tell us.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, there are so many lady Members of this House who are concerned. And I am sure, men are also concerned. There is a lady sitting next to you.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Renukaji is also supporting us.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): She was, in fact, inquiring about that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): I was taking up this issue with him.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: I was assuring her. This mater was raised the other day also. That day I have said that the Prime Minister has assured this House that he would do something as far as this Bill is concerned.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: When?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is there any time-bound programme? Or, is it like चलता है, हो जाएगा।

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU: The Prime Minister is taking leaders of all the parties into confidence to evolve *(Interruptions)*. I will get the particulars then and come back to you.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: That means, in this Session, it is not coming *(Interruptions)*. Tomorrow, we will raise it again.

RE. BOMB-BLAST IN JALANDHAR

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA (Punjab): Madam, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the House a major bomb-blast that has taken place ....*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Madam, we were told that there would be no Zero Hour, nothing.

उपसभापति: बैठिए न, कभी आपको भी समस्या हो जाती है तो एलाऊ कर देते है।

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: There should be some system.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know there is a system.

अभी आप सिस्टम न बताइए। Otherwise, it will be difficult for the House to run. Let us find out. Jalandhar is a serious matter. Please be brief, Mr. Singla. I would request you to be brief because the Minister is here and we want the reply.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: I will be absolutely brief, Madam. Thank you very much.

I would like to bring to the kind attention of this House a very major terrorist activity that has taken place in the form of a bomb-blast in Jalandhar killing seven people and injuring 20. The whole State is terrified today. After four years, such a major event has taken place. People are really afraid because it is not a small event that has occurred. The dimension of the nasty blast has squarely affacted the peace of the entire State. The Punjab C.M. has indicated that....

उपसभापति: अभी आप थोड़ा बोल दीजिए, भाषण नहीं करना है।

Say the matter is serious and ask what the Government is going to do about it. That is all.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: The Punjab C.M. has indicated that there are inside and outside forces. Now, this has happened immediately after the Government is formed there.